

THE CHINESE INVASION OF AMERICA.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

How would the ancient Roman commonwealth have carried on its affairs, when it ruled over races of every variety of complexion and language and propensities, if, instead of maintaining with the utmost jealousy the sacred rank of slaves, freedmen, strangers, "municipals," colonists, half-citizens, and whole citizens, it had admitted them at once indiscriminately to all political rights on a footing of perfect equality? Because that is the problem which the republic of the United States, already rivaling in another hemisphere the magnitude and dignity which ancient Rome reached in this, appears to have set itself to solve. And yet Rome had not such inferior varieties of mankind to deal with as America. Classical antiquity knew nothing of "races." Its acquaintance with the negro races was very imperfect. The peoples over which it ruled were all, or nearly all, "Aryan" or "Semitic." The haughtiest Roman, the subtlest Greek, could not vaunt of any marked physical distinction from the Gaul or Numidian. There were among that motley multitude no such contrasts as that, for instance, between the British collier and the native of Australia. Or, let us take another instance; for our roving tendencies now bring us acquainted with the strangest and darkest corners of the earth. In the Andaman Islands destiny has brought European superintendents and Hindoo soldiers and convicts into company with a tribe of aborigines who seem to realize the Darwinian theory, and form the "missing link." "They have never been able to settle down," writes an English officer, "and consequently have no dwelling places, nor have formed villages, or domestic culture, nor any source of bettering their lives. In other words, they are in the lowest state of humanity, and much resemble in actions the race of a monkey. They see no cause for clothing themselves, of laying by for the future, of attaining knowledge of things foreign, of the principles of communication, of preventing destruction and saving life." What position are we Europeans to assume, as the age of democracy advances, towards creatures such as these? We have discarded the bold philosophy of the Southern whites respecting the negro. "I say, he ain't the child of Ham, and he ain't the descendant of Noah any more than my horse is. Noah, sir, was a white man, and if he was a white man, and if he had a white wife, as he had, how could he have a nigger child?" Religion tells us that they are in one sense our equals. By repudiating the practice of slavery, we have avowed them to be our equals in another. Are we to complete the doctrine of human equality by admitting them to the suffrage and its attendant rights?

Genl also propose to import 2000 Chinese to do the work. "And thus," adds our contemporary, "the legitimate descendants of those who came over in the Mayflower will have to contend with the doctrines of Rome on one hand, and those of Confucius on the other." A letter from the Times' Philadelphia correspondent of the 4th of this month contains the history of the movement. "The recent shipment of a number of Chinese coolies to North Adams, Massachusetts, in the heart of New England, to work in a shoe factory, has caused the profoundest sensation. It opens the door to them, if they succeed, for employment in any trade in the country." The "Knights of St. Crispin," one of the most formidable of American trades unions, have by their tyranny over the employers urged on this ominous importation. If the writer is to be depended on, the result has been, not the discouragement of employers, but the break-up of a treaty between capital and labor. Meanwhile not only are the working classes taking up the question in mass meetings and noisy demonstrations, but a bill is now pending in the Senate, with much prospect of success, to prevent the enforcement of coolie contracts for "servile" labor. It is probable that, in the end, King Capital will have his way, and Chinnamen become a substantial contingent in the vast working population of the States. If this could only be effected, in the long run, through the process of dragging down the European laborer to the level of the Oriental, civilization would certainly be no gainer by the result. But the more probable solution of the question will be found in a more complete division of labor, and the continued progress of mechanical invention.

A Short Cut into the Yosemite Valley.

An Ohio clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Peate, has been travelling across the continent, and he gives this account of a short cut down into the Yosemite valley:—"Finding the guide thoroughly acquainted with the country, we engaged him to take us the next morning to a mountain-top called the Centinal Dome, eight thousand three hundred feet above the sea. The view from it is grand beyond description. From thence we went about a mile from Glacier Point, and had our first view of the valley from a perpendicular cliff three thousand seven hundred and five feet above the plain below. I never before had such a mixed feeling of awe, sublimity, power, and my own littleness. I was afraid to trust myself to look over—there seemed to be an awful and mysterious attraction. The abyss was drawing and charming me. And yet, a little, pale, nervous-looking woman of the party crept out, and for a long time looked over, until we urged her to come away. I then ventured to creep out and looked down. It was less than a mile to the cliff on the opposite side of the valley. I saw what seemed to be a garden, in which I saw two small, whitish-looking objects. I could not make out what they were until I looked at them through my field-glass, when I found them to be a yoke of oxen standing before a plough. This will give some idea of the elevation at which we stood. The little unpainted hotel in the valley was within a mile and a half of us: it was nineteen or twenty to follow the trail to the same point.

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A complete set of the Berlin Museums, and interior views of all the rooms in the various royal palaces of Prussia.

Particular attention is drawn to the fact that in a few days 100 views on the Rhine and its fortifications, as never before seen, will be exhibited. 11 1/2

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